GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1891
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
IRON DEFICIENCY IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN
MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Indian Women suffering from iron deficiency;

(b) the number of Indian Children afflicted with Cretinism and mildly retardation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SH SHANMUGAM)
(a) to (c) Preliminary analysis of data collected by the National Family Health Survey-II in eleven States during 1998-99 revealed that about 41.5 to 63.6 per cent of the women in the age group of 15 to 49 years are anaemic. However, the survey conducted by ICMR during 1984-86 showed that around 87.6 per cent of pregnant women had amaemia. Based on surveys, it is estimated that 2.2 million children are affected by cretinism and another 6.6 million children have mild neurological disorders. The Government of India has recognised that anaemia and iodine deficiency diseases are major public health problems. Therefore, specific intervention such as Prophylaxis programmes against Natritional Anaemia due to Iron Deficiency under Reproductive and Child Health Programme and National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme are under implementation to prevent and control these micro-nutrient deficiency disorders.